Violation of Selection Rules for Allotment of Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies in Haryana

†1075. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Jansatta dated 21st June, 2001 wherein it has been reported that petrol pumps and gas agencies has been doled out, to the cadres of only one party in Haryana;

(b) if so, whether these allotments have been made by the oil companies by violating the rules prescribed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of the names of such allottees and the basis on which petrol pumps and gas agencies have been allotted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Petrol Pumpon Kee Bandarbant Ko Lekar Bhajapa Netaon Mein Tanatani', which appeared in the New Delhi edition of the 'Jansatta' on 27.6.2001.

(b) and (c) Selection of dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorship/SKO-LDO dealerships is made on merit by independent Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs), appointed for respective States/Union Territories, as per the prescribed guidelines.

Study on dismantling of APM

1076. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an internal comprehensive study of the Ministry, reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 8th June, 2001 has revealed that public transport system based on CNG would not be sustainable consequent upon dismantling of the Administered Price Mechanism from April 2002, when CNG is likely to become a costlier auto fuel and also due to serious limitation on its total supply

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

and lack of pipeline network etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the assessment and the practical alternative being worked out, with their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had made a submission before the Hon'ble Supreme Court that a public transport system playhing solely on CNG may not be sustainable in the long term. The Ministry has also taken the stand that unleaded and low benzene petrol and diesel with 0.05% max. sulphur content satisfy the criteria of 'clean fuel' and as such vehicles may be allowed to run on these fuels in addition to CNG. These quality of fuels are already being supplied in Delhi.

Fire on Barauni-Kanpur Pipeline

1077. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 12th April, 2001 a section of the Barauni-Kanpur Pipeline of the Indian Oil Corporation, which transports petroleum products, burst and caught fire and engulfed vast surrounding areas causing panic amongst some villagers, who had to be evacuated, besides heavy disruption of rail traffic;

(b) if so, the details of the accident, the findings of the inquiry and action taken thereon;

(c) the existing guidelines on the maintenance and petrolling of such sensitive pipelines;

(d) whether these guidelines were followed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) On 12.4.2001 Indian Oil Corporation Limited reported that a leak had occured in Barauni-Kanpur product pipeline near Sikaria halt in Arrah District of Bihar which resulted in